

Congressman Paul A. Gosar

Floor Speech—CJS Appropriations Act (GOSAR_089 Amendment)

Gosar Amendment Bolstering Funds provided for the Veterans Treatment Court Initiative

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair), I have an amendment at the desk.

[The Clerk will report]

[Amendment X offered by Dr. Gosar of Arizona—(reads amendment)]

Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chair),

I rise today to stand with veterans throughout the country and offer a simple amendment that seeks to bolster funds in this act for the Veterans Treatment Court Initiative.

My amendment pays for this modest increase for this critical initiative by reducing funds for salaries and expenses for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives by \$6 million.

The bureau's salaries and expenses were increased by \$21 million from fiscal year 2014 levels, with a proposed appropriation of \$1.2 billion overall in this bill for the agency.

My amendment redirects funds from bureaucrats in the mismanaged Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives agency to a worthy treatment program for our nation's veterans.

Veterans Courts promote sobriety and recovery through coordinated local partnerships among community corrections agencies, drug treatment providers, the Judiciary and other important community support groups.

Veterans Treatment Courts have been extremely successful since they

were first created in 2008 by a Buffalo judge to combat the growing number of veterans appearing before the court that were addicted to drugs and alcohol as well as suffering from mental illness.

Many of our nation's heroes returning from combat are traumatized due to the associated violence and pressure of war and often cope with such feelings with substance abuse. They need focused treatment and a helping hand, and these courts provide such an avenue. The alternative to funding the Veterans Treatment Court Initiative is jail. I think we would all agree that providing treatment for our veterans through community partnerships at the local level is a far better option.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of my commonsense amendment and this worthwhile program, and with that, Mr. Chairman (or madam chair), I yield back.